

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER**  
**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2011**

**Instructions**

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to:  
[Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov)
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

*PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.*

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:** Energy and Climate Change Research and Technical Assistance for Oregon Agriculture

**2. Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**3. Contact information**

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Brent Searle
- b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** (503) 986-4558
- c. **Email Address:** bsearle@oda.state.or.us
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address): Oregon State University research stations; Oregon Department of Agriculture headquarters.

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.** The Oregon Department of Agriculture's mission is to ensure food safety and consumer protection; protect the natural resource base, and market agricultural products. Our main activities include providing certification services for various agricultural products; inspecting agricultural products to ensure food safety; inspecting agricultural operations to ensure natural resource protection; controlling noxious weeds and preventing the spread of invasive species; providing assistance to growers for the myriad of agricultural marketing challenges in today's complex global economy; and helping growers adapt to rising energy costs and changing climate conditions.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?** The Oregon Department of Agriculture is a public entity.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

USDA-EPA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Account.

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested:**

ODA is requesting funding for a package of six components designed to help Oregon agriculture producers adapt to changing economic conditions, and to prepare for and mitigate climate change impacts.

The grass seed industry is paralyzed from the collapsed housing market and needs rotational crops fitting with other cropping patterns in the Willamette Valley. Additionally, Oregon agriculture faces potentially devastating effects from climate change, including increasing pests, diseases, temperature extremes, and irrigation needs.

Oregon's producers can also reduce their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions; and, if those reductions can be measured, growers may be able to qualify for credits or incentives.

Research is urgently needed to help growers with key rotational crops, and to prepare Oregon's producers, crops, livestock, and infrastructure for climate change impacts; to mitigate the impact of energy cost increases; and to lessen agriculture's contributions to air quality concerns.

- a. **Component 1: Oilseed crop research. Objective/Need:** Push the research ahead on work to develop higher-yielding varieties of camelina and cold-tolerant varieties of soybeans. Both of these oilseeds could provide important rotational crops for grass seed growers in western Oregon and throughout the state. These crops can be converted into biofuel, food-grade oil, and livestock feed. They will also provide an alternative to canola, which conflicts with specialty vegetable seeds and other crops grown in western Oregon. The Oregon Legislature invested over \$400,000 in oilseed research over the past 3 years. The funding has expired and this research needs to be carried forward.

Budget request: \$300,000 (2 FTE OSU research/extension faculty for one year, contracted through ODA's budget; expect minimum of 3-4 years of effort to accomplish.)

- b. **Component 2: Water supply specialist and technical assistance. Objective/Need:** Water conservation will be critical to agriculture's irrigation needs as climatic changes occur and other uses compete for the water supply. The agriculture industry needs someone at the state level who is working specifically on agricultural water supply and conservation needs. This request would fund a water quantity position at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and maintain the irrigation extension specialist at Oregon State University. These two positions will take the latest technology and research to agricultural producers regarding water conservation and efficient irrigation technologies, and assist producers with accessing funding to modify systems. The ODA water quantity position will also work with the Oregon Water Resources Department to conduct long-term water supply availability assessments, and to develop plans to ensure an adequate long-term water supply for Oregon agriculture

and other in-stream and out-of-stream needs. The OSU position would be contracted through ODA's budget.

Budget request: \$250,000 (2 FTE for one year; on-going need. ODA continues to seek state funding for these positions.)

- c. **Component 3:** Climate change adaptation research for crops. **Objective/Need:** Conduct survey of crops that are most susceptible to climate change. Research and develop strategies for adaptation, including new crops and rotational crops, soil management, timing of planting, irrigation management, etc.

Budget request: \$150,000 (1 FTE research/extension faculty for one year; expect 2-3 years for completion.) The OSU position would be contracted through ODA's budget.

- d. **Component 4:** Soil carbon sequestration rates research. **Objective/Need:** Establish soil carbon sequestration rates for annual and perennial grass seed fields under conventional, reduced, and no-till systems. This research will investigate soil quality benefits of different tillage systems and help grass seed growers access carbon credits for practices that build soil carbon. Grass seed comprises the largest acreage of all crops in the Willamette Valley, with over 400,000 acres in production. Growers need management information on sustainable tillage systems that ensure adequate yields and pest control, fit well into systems for crop rotation, carbon sequestration, and soil management.

Budget request: \$150,000 (1 FTE research/extension faculty for one year; expect 2-3 years for completion.) The OSU position would be contracted through ODA's budget.

- e. **Component 5:** Nitrogen fertilizer management. **Objective/Need:** This component would establish soil emission coefficients for nitrous oxide on both dryland and irrigated lands in western and eastern Oregon, document the greenhouse gas reduction benefits of various cropping practices that reduce nitrogen fertilizer applications (within economical ranges for sustained yields), and help growers to access carbon credits for reduction in nitrous oxide emissions.

Budget request: \$225,000 (1.5 FTE research/extension faculty for one year; cropping cycles and climate/weather impact results and requires multi-year effort, minimum 2-3 growing cycles.) The OSU position would be contracted through ODA's budget.

- f. **Component 6:** Invasive species risk assessments. **Objective/Need:** With a more variable climate comes changes in pests and diseases that have not previously existed in Oregon. This is a real threat that could create significant new costs to growers for control, quarantines that may impact export ability, and negative impacts to the natural environment.

Current State funding for invasive species is limited to *response after something is detected*. Limited federal dollars through cooperative agreements with APHIS are directed to federally regulated, priority pests, not monitoring for early detection of threats in Oregon.

What is needed are resources to direct toward early detection here – a much more cost-effective approach than responding to a pest once it is established. These invaders could show up this summer, next year, or down the road several years. Already, insect pests are showing up now that have not survived here before:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/ippm\\_alert\\_d\\_suzukii.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/ippm_alert_d_suzukii.pdf). This effort would enable routine incorporation of invasive species related to climate change into Oregon Department of Agriculture's risk assessment tool for tracking, making projections, and helping to identify the invasiveness risk of plant and disease pests before they become established. Conduct 10-20 risk assessments per year.

Budget request: \$100,000 for ODA staff, supplies/materials, etc. (on-going threat/need).

**8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

Together, this package of components will help Oregon agriculture producers adapt to changing economic conditions, and to prepare for and mitigate climate change impacts, including increasing drought, pests and disease. Water is key to long-term viability of agriculture and our world's food and material needs. Rotational oilseed crops may be used to produce renewable energy.

Oregonians, and our nation's taxpayers, have a vital interest in maintaining Oregon's diverse and envious farmscape, local food structure, sustainability efforts, and economic viability,

Oregon's producers can also reduce their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, and if those reductions can be measured, growers may be eligible for tax credits, cost-share or other market-based programs to the benefit of the environment and growers bottom-line.

Job creation: The research and technical assistance funds requested as part of this proposal will create approximately 8 research and technical jobs in the short term.

Economic Impact: In the long term, the research and assistance funded through this collective effort will protect Oregon's agricultural economy and minimize the threats associated with changing climate conditions and fluctuations in energy costs.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

These initiatives have not received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years.

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

N/A

**Funding Details**

**10. Amount requested for this project:** Total requested: \$1,175,000

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

Salary and program materials for research and technical assistance: \$1,075,000

Salary and program materials for invasive species risk assessments: \$100,000

## **12. What is the total cost of the project?**

The funding package compliments investments previously made and those that are on-going.

- The State Legislature has invested over \$300,000 in the past 3 years in oilseed research.
- USDA APHIS contracts with ODA to conduct eradication of targeted invasive species; the State has put resources into the creation of the Invasive Species Council; and the State funds responses to invasives. None of this work, however, is focused on monitoring the threat from invasives correlated to climatic change.
- ODA funded a preliminary literature search on grass carbon sequestration through OSU in 2006.

Total initiative cost to build on previous and current efforts in a more comprehensive approach to assist the agriculture industry and Oregon's natural environment is:  
\$1,175,000

## **13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?**

Most of the individual components are not scalable. If partial funding is awarded, we would evaluate the proposed components based on industry feedback and go forward with as many components as funding allows.

## **14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

The State of Oregon has contributed \$332,000 toward oilseed research (item 7a above) from 2007-2009. See 12 above for other contributions/efforts.

## **15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

Research proposals were developed cooperatively with Oregon State University as part of a strategy to help agriculture mitigate and adapt to climate change. Funding is channeled through ODA to enable the entire initiative components to be focused and monitored under contract for achievable outcomes that benefit producers, citizens, and Oregon's natural environment.

Oregon grass seed growers and organizations have sought ODA's help with rotational oilseed crops. Grower organizations of various ag sectors are seeking information about carbon sequestration and options to document and participate in such programs.

One of the pivotal issues facing agriculture is water availability. Availability is a function of capture, delivery, and most efficient form of use (in coordination with other uses). Growers are clamoring for this assistance.

**Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:**

**Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov**

**Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, [Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov)**

***Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300,  
[Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov)***